

Summer 2018
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW PROGRAM FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

The University of Akron School of Law Public Interest Law Program (the “Public Interest Law Program”) supports and encourages those students looking to gain legal experience in public interest law. Students who have secured a placement with a public interest organization, such as: a court, a State or Federal agency, or a qualifying non-profit entity, are eligible to apply for a fellowship from the Public Interest Law Program. **To be eligible, you must: (1) be engaged in legal work; (2) be supervised by a licensed attorney; and (3) secure a public interest placement prior to submitting an application.** If you are interested in a public interest placement, but need help obtaining one, please feel free to contact:

- Alisa Benedict O'Brien

- Professor Joann Sahl

Fellowships are funded by three independent and limited sources: (1) The annual Student Bar Association (“SBA”) Auction; (2) Samuel Reese Willis Foundation; and (3) the Malkin-Koosed Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland. Accordingly, students should bear the following in mind when applying:

- As fellowship funds are limited, the Public Interest Law Program Committee **will** give preference to applicants who have not previously received a fellowship. At the discretion of the Committee, repeat applicants *may* receive an award in the following set amounts:
 - Second time recipients: \$500.00
 - Third time recipients: \$250.00
 - Repeat applicants, in the sole discretion of the Committee, may be eligible for funds in excess of the amounts listed above provided they submit a letter detailing exceptional financial circumstances and need for the repeat award.
- Fellowship recipients are expected to support, either by assisting with the planning of, or attending, the Student Bar Association auction held annually during second semester. If an applicant has not participated in nor supported the auction, the Committee has the discretion to consider an applicant’s other involvement with pro bono or community service activities, involvement with the legal clinics, etc.
- Please note that fellowships are awarded on a “per hour” basis. That is, recipients receive a set dollar amount per hour. Each recipient receives the same hourly amount. However, the Committee retains discretion to award fellowships based upon other criteria, including but not limited to expenses and personal circumstances.
- Depending on available funds, the Committee may elect to only fund one student per placement site per semester.

Applications for **Summer 2018** Public Interest Fellowships will be accepted **beginning Monday, February 19th** and will be accepted through **Monday, April 16th at NOON.**

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

- A completed Public Interest Fellowship Application (attached). The application should clearly state whether you are participating in a Clinical Seminar for a portion of the placement, and delineate how many hours will count towards academic credit and how many hours will counts towards the fellowship.
- A brief **PERSONAL STATEMENT** describing the essence of **YOUR ASSIGNMENT** and **WHY YOU BELIEVE THE WORK IS IMPORTANT**. This need not be highly detailed. Please include your **YEAR** in law school, describe your **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE** (if any), and an **HONOR CODE STATEMENT THAT YOU ARE IN ACADEMIC GOOD STANDING**. Please include the **CONTACT PERSON’S NAME, TITLE AND PHONE NUMBER** with a brochure or other descriptive materials describing the organization’s mission.
- A **CONFIRMATION LETTER** from the organization stating that you have **ACCEPTED** a position with the organization. Please ask the agency to include what **PAY**, if any, you anticipate receiving from them. **Please note that you must be engaged in legal work and supervised by a licensed attorney.**
- An itemized list of your projected **travel and parking expenses** and any other incurred expenses related to the job.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE ABOVE INFORMATION TO THE CAREER SERVICES OFFICE IN ROOM 245 BY MONDAY APRIL 16TH AT 12:00 NOON. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME. ALL FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING.